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## **Spreadsheet Approved for Use by Clean Elections Participating Candidates in 2006 Election**

*United States Justice Department Approves Use of Spreadsheets for the Upcoming Election Cycle*

**PHOENIX (January 31, 2006)** – The United States Justice Department (DOJ) has granted its approval for Clean Elections candidates to use a [spreadsheet](#) to keep track of their \$5 qualifying contributions.

The approval of the DOJ was the final step required in allowing participating candidates to use electronic spreadsheets for the 2006 election cycle; saving hours of time and money. The Secretary of State's software currently does not allow the importing and exporting of excel spreadsheets, and only allows one user at a time to enter data. With the change, candidates may now allow multiple users to enter in data.

The request for the change, which was initiated by Secretary of State Jan Brewer, has received overwhelming support from candidates and their treasurers, the Clean Elections Institute and The League of Women Voters.

"Our goal is to have this in place before candidates file for Clean Elections funding and we are very happy we accomplished this," said Michael Becker, voter education manager at the Citizens Clean Elections Commission. "It will save candidates significant time and will allow them to use the information again if they run another campaign in the future."

The amendment will only serve for the 2006 election cycle. The Secretary of State's office intends to have software changes after the election year that will allow candidates to import and export data.

### **About the Citizens Clean Elections Commission**

The Citizens Clean Elections Act, which was passed by voters in 1998, created a new campaign financing system that provides full public funding to qualified candidates who agree to abide by Citizens Clean Elections Commission guidelines. Candidates for statewide and legislative offices are eligible to participate in the public funding program.

To qualify for funding, participating candidates must adhere to strict spending and contribution limits and gather \$5 qualifying contributions from constituents who are registered voters. Participating candidates also agree to attend required debates.

For more information visit the Citizens Clean Elections Commission website:

[www.azcleelections.gov](http://www.azcleelections.gov)

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At its November 18, 2005 meeting, the Citizens Clean Elections Commission approved a change to rule R2-20-109(B)(1) to provide an additional method for Participating candidates to submit their lists of \$5.00 Qualifying Contributions to the Secretary of State's Office as required by A.R.S. § 16-950(B) .

In lieu of generating the list through the Secretary of State's campaign finance software, candidates may now choose to create their lists using an Excel spreadsheet containing the \$5.00 Qualifying Contributor's information .

The Secretary of State's Office has created an excel spreadsheet that Participating Candidates can use to create their lists. The candidate will need to file both a printed copy of this spreadsheet and an electronic copy saved on a diskette or CD when submitting their application. Instructions for using the spreadsheet are included in the spreadsheet.

Candidates may still choose to generate their lists by inputting their \$5.00 Qualifying Contributor information into the campaign finance software program and filing a campaign finance report online. This rule change, however, provides candidates an alternative way to create and file their lists of qualifying contributors if they choose .

[Download the \\$5 Qualifying Contributions Spreadsheet](#) (.xls - excel format)

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